

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 SCCT-01

AID-05 /067 W

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O R 241500Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5994

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS ON EXPECTATIONS OF INCREASED
US PRESSURES ON ISRAEL

1. MAR 24 JERUSALEM POST CARRIES LONG STORY BY WASHINGTON-BASED WOLF BLITZER UNDER HEADLINE " US SOURCES EXPECT MORE PRESSURE ON JERUSALEM." AFTER REPORTED WHAT SECRETARY ALLEGEDLY TOLD US CORRESPONDENTS ON AIRCRAFT RETURNING TO WASHINGTON, BLITZER SAYS "... WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY NESSEN DID NOT WANT TO CONFIRM OR DENY REPORTS FROM JERUSALEM THAT FORD HAD SENT A STRONGLY-WORDED MESSAGE TO THE ISRAEL GOVT LAST THURSDAY WARNING THAT THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO RE-ASSESS U.S. - ISRAEL RELATIONS IF THE TALKS COLLAPSED. THE MESSAGE REPORTEDLY BLAMED ISRAEL AS BEING NEEDLESSLY STUBBORN. " INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES " HERE CONFIRMED THE REPORTS, ADDING THAT THE ISRAEL CABINET HAD BEEN "ASTONISHED" BY THE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE."

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2. " IT WAS UNCLEAR YESTERDAY WHETHER THE BREAKDOWN OF THE TALKS WOULD ESULT IN A MORE DIFFICULT PERIOD IN US-ISRAEL RELATIONS, BUT THERE WERE SOME INDICATIONS THAT IT MIGHT. ISRAEL AMB SIMCHA DINITZ, WHO WAS IN ISRAEL FOR THE DURATION OF THE TALKS, SCHEDULED AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING LATER YESTERDAY AFTERNOON IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE CONF OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS..." "OBSERVERS HERE COULD NOT RECALL A PRECEDENT WHEN AN ISRAEL AMB HAD CALLED FOR SUCH A QUICK MEETING WITH THE AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERSHIP. DINITZ ALWAYS BRIEFS THE LEADERS FOLLOWING HIS VISITS TO ISRAEL, BUT HAS GENERALLY WAITED SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE FLYING TO NEW YORK TO MEET WITH THEM. THE FACT THAT HE WAS MAKING THIS BRIEFING HIS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS SUGGESTED THAT AN EMERGENCY WAS BREWING. EMBASSY PERSONNEL WERE OBVIOUSLY PLANNING STRATEGY FOR A MAJOR INFO CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN THE ISRAEL POSITION TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC..."

3. "OBSERVERS IN WASHINGTON DEBATED YESTERDAY HOW THE COLLAPSE OF THE TALKS WOULD AFFECT US-ISRAEL RELATIONS. THE REPORTS OF PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE WAS UPPERMOST IN THE MINDS OF ISRAEL OFFICIALS HERE AND FRIENDS OF ISRAEL. LAST YEAR, SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS-- INCLUDING FORD AND KISSINGER-- PRIVATELY TOLD VISITORS THAT ISRAEL HAD 'MISSED THE BUS' WITH JORDAN BY FAILING TO REACH AN INTERIM ACCORD BEFORE THE RABAT ARAB HAD PROCLAIMED THE PLO AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIANS, AND NOT KING HUSSEIN."

"OBSERVERS HERE WERE WONDERING WHETHER THE U.S. WOULD NOW ONCE AGAIN BLAME ISRAEL FOR 'MISSING THE BUS' WITH EGYPT."

4. "KISSINGER IS SCHEDULED TO MEET TODAY WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO BRIEF THEM ON HIS VISIT TO THE MID EAST. IF HE SUGGESTS THAT JERUSALEM WAS NEEDLESSLY INTRANSIGENT, ISRAEL COULD LOSE SUPPORT IN CONGRESS. BUT SENIOR STATE DEPT OFFICIALS, WHO HAD NOT ACCOMPANIED THE SECRETARY TO THE MID EAST BUT WHO HAD BEEN INFORMED UNCLASSIFIED

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LAST FRIDAY THAT THE TALKS HAD VIRTUALLY COLLAPSED, TOLD VISITORS THAT THE SECRETARY BELIEVED THAT PRIMIN RABIN HAD BEEN VERY ORTHCOMING IN THE NEGOTIATIONS."

5. UNDER HEADLINE "HOW FAHMY WON", JERUSALEM POST ALSO EDITORIALIZES THAT GOI FAILED SERIOUSLY IN ITS HANDLING OF INFO POLICY DURING TALKS AND PARTICULARLY WHEN IT WAS CLEAR THEY WERE DEADLOCKED. IT CRITICIZES

DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL GOI STATEMENT...

".. WHEN PRIME MINISTER RABIN FINALLY SPOKE TO THE PRESS
THE NEXT DAY, THE STORY WAS ALREADY 14 HOURS OLD -- AND EVEN
HE HAD LITTLE TO ADD. NOR WAS HIS STATEMENT IN ANY
WAY GEARED BELATEDLY TO INTEREST THE MEDIA." "... THE FAILURE
IS ALL THE MORE DISTURBING BECAUSE THE GOVT HAD THIS
TIME-- UNLIKE ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS-- MADE INTENSIVE
PREPARATIONS TO COORDINATE AND STREAMLINE ITS INFO
WORK. AN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL INFO TASK FORCE WAS SET
UP, UNDER THE DIRECT AEGIS OF THE PRIMIN. BUT VERY
SOON THE MOMENTUM WAS DISSIPATED, AND NEWSMEN-- LOCAL AND
FOREIGN-- WERE LEFT TO ORAGE FOR LEAKS AND COMMENTS WHERE
THEY COULD. ON SATURDAY NIGHT, WHEN THE COORDINATED IN-
FORMATION EFFORT SHOULD HAVE FUNCTIONED WITH SMOOTH EFFICIENCY
IT FAILED ABYSMALLY. WE MAY NOT HAVE REASON TO REGRET
THE GOVT'S DECISION, BUT EVEN THE BEST OF DECISIONS
CAN BE EFFECTIVELY KILLED IN THIS WAS AS FAR AS WORLD
OPINION IS CONCERNED."

KEATING

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